

Jesus Calls Disciples- Luke 5:1-11

THE POINT

Focus:

Jesus is the Messiah
God uses all kinds of people in his Kingdom

Application:

We seek to follow Jesus with our whole lives.
We recognize that all sorts of people are called by God.

Last Week: Jesus' Baptism

2 Weeks Ago: Flight to Egypt

HEART CONNECTION (5-7 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- None

Content:

Today, I'm going to be forming a team, and I have some special requirements. Let's have everyone stand up in a circle, and I'll list the requirements. If you don't meet the requirement, you'll have to sit down. Ready?

List various requirements that initially keep the children "on" your team (i.e. "Team members are at church this morning", "Team members are under the age of 12"), and then eliminate everyone (i.e. "must be in 2nd grade", "must have a pet dog", "must have 3 brothers").

Oh no! It looks like no one is able to be on my team! Sometimes rules earn a spot on a team.

When Jesus was getting ready to travel and teach people, he made his own team. He didn't look for teammates that most people would choose! Instead, Jesus' team is made of people who trust and follow him. As we read the story, listen to how Jesus calls his teammates by blessing them!

STORY CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- coloring supplies
- printed coloring pages or blank paper for illustrating
- Coloring Page suggestions (Hyperlinked on .pdf):
 - [Suggestion 1](#)
 - [Suggestion 2](#)

Optional: Bibles for children who can read or are learning to read to follow along.

Instructions:

If you're using a coloring page, pass it out for the children to color while they listen to you read the story. Use the coloring page in the "I wonder" section to help children imagine they are there in the story, too.

Read the story aloud and with expression. If something seems difficult to understand or if you're interrupted, repeat or rephrase what you just said and move on. Learning to listen to Scripture is a good skill to build, and this is an easy story to understand for most children without too much explanation.

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

If your congregation follows the RCL, the Gospel reading will be the calling of the disciples from John 1. This text from Luke shares about the same process with a narrative more accessible to children.

Say: In our story today, we're going to hear about fishermen. In Bible times, fishermen caught fish for people to eat as food. The fishermen in our story today probably didn't have very much money and didn't get to go to very much school growing up. Let's see what Jesus does:

Luke 5:1-11

One day Jesus was standing by the Sea of Galilee. The people crowded around him and listened to the word of God. 2 Jesus saw two boats at the edge of the water. They had been left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into the boat that belonged to Simon. Jesus asked him to go out a little way from shore. Then he sat down in the boat and taught the people.

4 When he finished speaking, he turned to Simon. Jesus said, "Go out into deep water. Let down the nets so you can catch some fish."

5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

6 When they had done so, they caught a large number of fish. There were so many that their nets began to break. 7 So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees. "Go away from me, Lord!" he said. "I am a sinful man!" 9 He and everyone with him were amazed at the number of fish they had caught. 10 So were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who worked with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will fish for people." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore. Then they left everything and followed him.

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WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: If using coloring sheets, reference them during this section.

I wonder what it was like out on the water that day.

I wonder how tired Simon was when he had been up all night.

I wonder what it was like for Jesus to bless Simon and James and John with so many fish!

I wonder, if you were there, where you would be in this story.

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.